28 SEP 1956

Vice Admiral William V. Davis, Jr.
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air)
United States Navy
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Admiral Davis:

As you know, a primary concern of the Intelligence Community is the collection of vital information by means of airborne electronic systems overflying denied territories.

In a continuing effort to increase our capability in this field, we asked the Air Force almost two years ago to recommend a more advanced vehicle to replace the aircraft now used. As a result of that recommendation, this Agency made arrangements for the Air Force to procure for us a total of seven P2V-7 (RB-69A) aircraft which, when modified and equipped with the most advanced equipment available, were to be assigned to overseas areas.

Recent favorable developments in other areas of our collection efforts, however, have lessened the requirement for which the P2V-7's were being obtained. As a result, we have decided to reduce the number of these aircraft from seven to five. This decision has been reached only after a careful evaluation of the overall requirement of the Intelligence Community and is based on considered reasoning.

I am aware that this reduction will present problems to you and the various elements of your staff which have been supporting this program since its initiation over a year ago and I want to assure you and your associates that we are most appreciative of the time and effort which has been spent on it. I am confident that support of the same high caliber will continue in your headquarters and will be provided by your overseas commands.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

C. P. CABELL
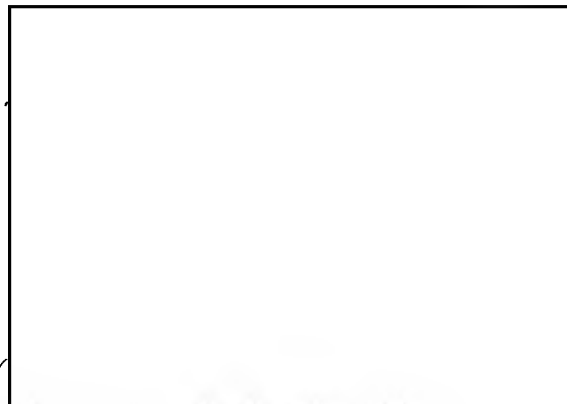Lieutenant General, USAF
Acting Director

STAT   PP/AMD/☐☐☐☐☐☐Jr:bl (19 September 1956)

146504

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Frank G. Wisner, DD/P

146504

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: RB69 Program

REFERENCE: Memo dated 24 Aug 56, from DD/P to ADCI, subject:
P2V-7 Program

STAT

The attached letters to General Lindsay and Admiral Davis have,
in accordance with your request, been prepared for your signature to
affect paragraph 3 of referenced memorandum.

STAT

Chief
Psychological & Paramilitary Staff

Attachments:
TS # 146504
TS # 146503

STAT PP/AMD/[   ]Jr:hl (19 September 1956)

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